controller disposed in the VTC, such as controller 124 (FIG. 1A). In certain embodiments, step 540 is performed by a virtual copy device, such as virtual copy device 123. In certain embodiments, step 540 is performed by a controller, such as controller 123c, disposed in a virtual copy device, such as virtual copy device 123.

In step 550, the virtual copy device, such as copy device 123, receives a signal from the second VTS that the file has been written to a virtual copy device disposed in that VTS. In certain embodiments, step 550 is performed by a controller disposed in the second VTS such as controller 147 (FIG. 1A). In certain embodiments, step 550 further includes providing a signal to the VTC that the file has been written to a copy device disposed in the second VTS. In certain embodiments, the step of providing a signal to the VTC is performed by a virtual copy device, such as virtual copy device 123. In certain embodiments, the step of providing a signal to the VTC is performed by a controller, such as controller 123c, disposed in a virtual copy device, such as virtual host device 123. Applicants' method transitions from step 550 to step 530 and continues.

Referring now to FIG. 6, in step 610 Applicants' method sets a status signal time interval. Each VTC periodically provides a status signal to each interconnected VTS. Those status signals are provided at the status signal time interval of step 610.

In certain embodiments, the status signal time interval of step 610 is set in firmware disposed in a memory, such as memory 218 (FIG. 2), disposed in a virtual device, such as virtual device 210 (FIG. 2). In certain embodiments, the status signal time interval is provided by a host computer, such as host computer 110 (FIGs. 1A, 1B, 1C)). In certain embodiments, the status signal time interval of step 610 is set in

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